**2004 HSC English (Paper 1)**

**Question 3 – response in the “high” range**

**“Rabbit Proof Fence”**

***NOUNS / NOUN GROUPS***

“The journey, not the arrival, matters.”

One of the most famous personalities Lao-Tzoi one said, “A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step.” From this, we realize that all journeys, regardless of their nature, must have a beninning. There must be an idea or ssue thart evokes or persuades the traveler to undertake his/her journey. Some of these actions may be phusical, more are mental or emotional and sometimes the journey is all these at once. Therefore, we can regard journey as both a thing and an action.

The journeys in Phillip Noyce’s 2002 film “Rabbit Proof Fence”, Joseph Conrad’s novel “Heart of Darkness”, the Board of Studies text “The Road Not Taken”, are the latter and the former and because of that they are all excellent examples of challenging journeys that people undertake.

The statement, “The journey, not the arrival, matters” acknowledges that by embarking on a journey, it is not really the journey that matters in the end, but rather what occurs along the way and what people learn throughout their journeys.

When we consider Phillip Noyce’s film, “Rabbit Proof Fence”, a re-enactment of a 2000 kilometer walk by these young Aboriginal girls across Western Australian landscapes in 1931, we are looking at a very physical journey though there are also aspects of an emotional and spiritual journey. The girls, taken from their mothers and unwillingly transported to a white mission, journey home through physically and emotionally challenging territory. The journey itself, taking nine weeks and involving some of Australia’s harshest landscapes was truly a heroic feat. They confronted heat, lack of food and water, the terrible loneliness of the inland, the possibility of betrayal and capture everytime they saw another human being, and the ever present threat of being caught by the tracker Moodoo. Yet they went on, confounding Mr Neville, the brutal and patronizing “chief protector of Aborigines”, the police and the whole community, with what they were able to achieve through sheer willpower. Their journey was less about the maile walked than it was about the triumph of the spirit. The practicalities of the girls’ physical journey on foot, also creates many problems. In overcoming these, Molly in particular learns and grows so that her physical journey parallels with her journey into adulthood. Molly makes the choices for the three girls, and in making the journey happen. She is both physically and emotionally challenged as she deals with obstacles they encounter and it is her knowledge, determination, cleverness and caution that makes the journey succeed.

*(NB There is another 4 pages to this response.)*

***VERBS/VERB GROUPS***

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***ADVERBIALS (ADVERBIAL PHRASES)***

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***CONJUNCTIONS and CONNECTIVES***

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***PASSIVE VOICE***

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***COMPLEX CLAUSES***

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***TEXT STRUCTURES***

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